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10 SEP 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR (RESEARCH), CIA

SUBJECT: ~~(S)~~ NRO Satellite Operations Office

REFERENCE: Memorandum for Under Sec/AF [redacted] Dep Dir (Research), CIA, 9 Aug 1962, Subj as above [redacted] 868-62)

Regarding establishment of the ~~(S)~~ NRO Operations Center, I concur in the observations outlined in your 9 August memorandum. Although we will not actually move the satellite operations function to the Pentagon facility until everything is completely prepared and personnel thoroughly trained, I feel that it is important that we proceed expeditiously in designing and developing this facility and training the people who will operate it. I feel strongly that those individuals of the CORONA-MURAL operational planning team who will form the nucleus of the new center should be identified now, notified of the pending change and, where necessary, replacements requested to perform such other duties as these individuals may be otherwise performing within your organization. I feel this nucleus should be comprised of not less than two experienced CORONA-MURAL operations personnel and such others as you may suggest. In the interest of a smooth interim working arrangement and to promote an effective transfer of operations, it would appear essential that, in addition to those of the CORONA-MURAL operations team who will form the nucleus of the ~~(S)~~ NRO operations staff, those remaining be made fully aware of these actions.

I have designated Colonel Thomas J. Herron as Deputy for Operations in the ~~(S)~~ DNRO Staff; who, along with an Assistant Deputy to be designated by you, will have complete responsibility for all functions of the Operations Center. As additional Operations Center personnel are assigned, it appears most advantageous to use these people to augment the CORONA-MURAL operational staff at the Langley facility, to develop the enlarged and experienced team required. Such a team should take over the planning and operational control of Program [redacted] as well as assume the additional workload of the upcoming LA[redacted] Programs. At such time then, as the permanent ~~(S)~~ NRO facility is ready, the completely functional team will be transferred with no disruption of operations.

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~~TOP SECRET~~

In regard to your suggestion that an Air Force senior operations officer participate in CORONA-MURAL operations, Colonel Herron, and all members of his staff as they are assigned, should participate fully in all aspects of all satellite operations matters. In view of Colonel Herron's present responsibilities in getting the permanent ~~(S)~~ NRO operational facility under way, both he and some of his personnel will necessarily miss some of these operations activities. They will, however, participate to the maximum extent possible.

~~S/Dr Cloyd~~

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